

The Monroe Doctrine Adams also formulated the famous foreign policy doctrine named for President Monroe—the **Monroe Doctrine**. This policy responded to the fears by European powers, including France, to help Spain recover Latin American colonies that had declared their independence. Monroe and Adams were eager to protect those new republics. The British shared that goal and proposed uniting with the United States to warn the other European powers to stay out of Latin America. Adams and Monroe, however, preferred to act without a British partner. In 1823, Monroe issued a written doctrine declaring that European monarchies had no business meddling with American republics. In return, the United States promised to stay out of European affairs.

Primary Source

... [T]he occasion has been judged proper for asserting, as a principle in which the rights and interests of the United States are involved, that the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers. . . .

James Monroe, address to Congress, December 2, 1823

The Monroe Doctrine meant little in 1823 when the Americans lacked the army and navy to enforce it. The Latin American republics kept their independence with British, rather than American, help. The doctrine did, however, reflect the nation's growing desire for power. The doctrine became much more significant in the 1890s and in the twentieth century, when the United States increasingly sent armed forces into Latin American countries.

✓ **Checkpoint** What foreign policy actions did John Quincy Adams take that reflected nationalism? *US History*

The Nation Compromises Over Slavery

The spirit of nationalism failed to suppress regional differences in the United States. Such differences made the nation more difficult to govern. In 1819, this difficulty became evident in a crisis over Missouri's admission to the Union as a new state. At that point, the Union had an equal number of slave and free states—which meant equal regional power in the United States Senate. If Missouri entered the Union as a slave state, it would tip the balance in favor of the South. This prospect alarmed northern congressmen. A New York congressman proposed banning slavery in Missouri as a price for joining the Union. The proposal ban outraged southern leaders, who claimed a right to expand slavery westward.

In 1820, after a long and bitter debate, Henry Clay crafted the **Missouri Compromise**. The northern district of Massachusetts would enter the Union as the free state of Maine to balance admission of Missouri as a slave state. To discourage future disputes over state admissions, the compromise also drew a line across the continent from the southwestern corner of Missouri to the nation's western boundary. Territories south of that line would enter as slave states. Those north of the line would become free states.

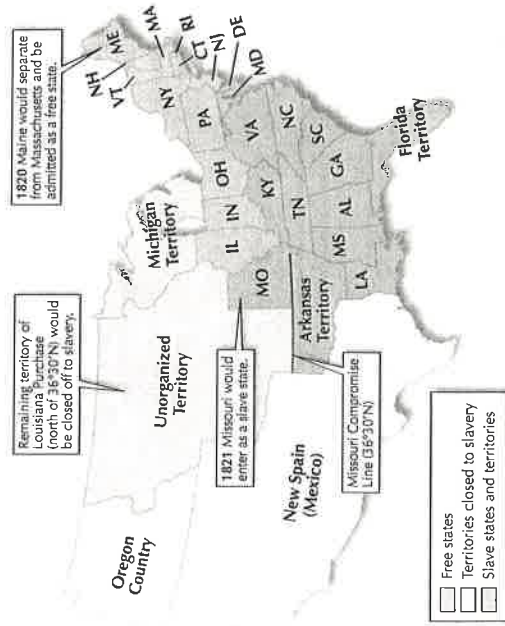
The compromise solved the short-term crisis. But that crisis had exposed the growing division between the North and the South over the expansion of slavery. Jefferson worried, "This momentous question, like a fire-bell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once the [death] knell of the Union."

Southern whites felt insulted by the northern attacks on their region's reliance on slavery. They also felt threatened. In 1822, they blamed the Missouri

The Missouri Compromise

Geography Interactive

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Map Skills The Missouri Compromise admitted Maine as a free state, Missouri as a slave state, and prohibited slavery north of 36°30'N latitude.

1. Region Which would cover more land under the compromise—new free states or new slave states?

2. Draw Conclusions What did the compromise reveal about the state of the Union?

debates for inspiring Denmark Vesey to plan a slave revolt. Vesey, a black freedman, prepared slaves to seize control of Charleston, South Carolina. The revolt, however, never took place because Charleston officials learned of the plot. These officials arrested, tried, convicted, and hanged Vesey and 34 others. Anxious over their close call, southern politicians insisted that their safety required northern silence on slavery.

✓ **Checkpoint** How did sectionalism threaten the expansion of the Union?

SECTION 3 Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online
For: Self-test with vocabulary practice
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Comprehension

1. Terms and People How does each term below demonstrate the increasing nationalism in the years following the War of 1812? Answer the question in a paragraph that uses each term.

- American System
- Adams-Onís Treaty
- Monroe Doctrine

2. Note Taking Reading Skill:

Understand Effects Use your completed concept web to answer the Section Focus Question: How did domestic and foreign policies reflect the nationalism of the times?

Writing About History

3. Quick Write: Write a thesis As in other types of essays and reports, the backbone for a research report is the thesis, or main idea. Reread the text in this section on Henry Clay's American System. Then, write a thesis statement for a research report on this topic.

Critical Thinking

4. Recognize Sufficient Evidence How did the fact that James Monroe won reelection in 1820 nearly unanimously reflect the nationalism of the era?

5. Draw Conclusions How did the spirit of nationalism contribute to the Monroe Doctrine?

6. Analyze Information What did the Missouri Compromise suggest about the limits of nationalism in the United States in the 1820s?

